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# ALONG THE GARDEN PATH



Auglaize Gardens, Van Wert, Ohio



# ALONG THE GARDEN PATH

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AUGLAIZE GARDENS

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The

James Boyd Collection

of Quality Peonies

Special Fall Offer - \$25

(Price in 1928 was \$311)

THIS will be the last issue of *Along the Garden Path* for this year and our last opportunity to invite you to select Peonies and Oriental Poppies from Auglaize Gardens for your own garden this fall.

Poppies should be planted by October 1 and Peonies before freezing weather.

Your orders will be welcomed and appreciated and will have our best attention.



**W**OULD you like to have us send you a division of Walter Faxon, one of the prettiest Peonies, all ready to plant in your garden this fall? Without charge?

All right, we'll do it if you'll write us a letter.

We greatly enjoy getting ready the material for this little publication. It's sort of like sitting down and chatting with people who have the same hobby as your own.

One difference, though. We do most of the talking. It's true, we occasionally get a letter of comment from a reader and quite frequently get fine orders for Peony and Poppy roots. For which we thank you.

But we'd like to hear from everybody on the mailing list if possible and there's one other thing we'd like too—to know just what is your favorite Peony or Oriental Poppy and why. Among the peonies is your favorite a red, a pink or a white? Is it a Jap or a single variety, maybe?

Among the Poppies do you like the brilliant red of Lulu A. Neeley or the lilac pink tint of Masterpiece?

Give us the name of your favorite variety of either flower and tell us why you like it best. Please. Make your

letter as long or as short as you like.

To everybody who writes us such a letter by October 15 we'll send in return a Walter Faxon division at planting time.

Get busy, mail man.



**F**ORTY acres of fields and woods, painstakingly planted, landscaped and beautified. That's Auglaize Gardens.

Would you like to know something about our place? If so, read on. If you're not interested, skip to the next article.

Quite a few years ago we became interested in Peonies and Oriental Poppies. We bought stock from the best growers of the country and planted it in a leased field along the Little Auglaize river, 10 miles from Van Wert.

Hence the name, Auglaize Gardens.

Soon after we got to the place where we could offer stock for sale, we began to look for a permanent location. Finally we purchased 40 acres along the Lincoln highway, two and one-half miles east of Van Wert.

Then came the job of changing a farm into a garden. One of the rea-

sons for the selection of this particular place was the quality of its soil. Little had to be done in the way of fertilization. Additional drainage was required.

The Lincoln Highway runs east and west and the farm lies to the north of the highway. There were cultivated fields next to the road and to the north of them a woods of native forest trees.

We made a macadam drive back to the woods and under the trees built an office building with walls of creamy stucco and a roof of colored slate. An artificial stream was made through the woods to add beauty and more particularly to carry off surplus rain in spring and fall.

Transplanting of stock from the original garden was started in the fall and was not completed until three years.

During succeeding years many changes and additions have been made. A barberry hedge grows around the outer edge of two sides of the garden. Wide paths between the field plantings were sodded. A gate house was built at the entrance. A rear wing of this building houses the power pumps which take water from wells for the Skinner irrigating system.

Two years ago a wing for a dis-



play room was added to the office building in the woods. Here cut flowers are displayed in vases during the blooming season.

Most of the trees were taken out of an area comprising about an acre to the east of the office and here was planted our display garden. Two plants of every variety of peony sold at Auglaize grow here. Visitors who come here during the blooming season can pick varieties from this display garden rather than have to walk through the fields. Last season a poppy display garden was laid out to the west of the office building.

These display gardens not only afford an opportunity to compare varieties easily; they are laid out much like a small private garden might be and enable you to visualize how these gorgeous flowers will look around your own home.

Our small stream has been stocked with several kinds of fish. In it we have planted water lilies and several other kinds of flowers. Others have grown up of their own accord.

You may cross the stream to the main part of the woods over rustic bridges. The woods we have tried to keep as natural looking as possible. Its trees are mostly oak, elm, hickory, wal-

nut and beech. Various clumps of pawpaws are scattered here and there and their bright yellow foliage is especially striking in the fall.

The peony and poppy growing fields have hundreds of rows of plants running north and south—and let us say modestly they're planted in mighty straight rows. Weeds are not tolerated in these fields and no matter when you see these plants during the growing season, you'll find they have been recently cultivated. A Skinner irrigating system covers all the fields.

During the last year we put in a parking area where several hundred visitors' cars may be parked at the same time. This is a necessity during the blooming season.

We have given you this rather rambling description of Auglaize Gardens in the hope that you may be interested in stopping to see us whenever you are near Van Wert. We assure you of a hearty welcome.

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TULIPS aren't listed in our catalog but we do grow about 65 of the finer varieties. Sort of a personal hobby.

We have surplus stock this fall of some of these varieties.

If you're interested, write and we'll send you a list of the ones available, together with prices.

**H**OLD up there, sir and madam! It's not time to put away the hoe for the winter.

Giving your peonies a little attention in the fall will mean more and better flowers next spring. Here are a few suggestions which may be of help to you:

Keep the ground around the plants cultivated. This is just as important after the blooming period as before.

You can safely cut off the tops of your plants now but what's the use? Wait until frosts have killed them. One of the fine things about the peony is its beautiful foliage throughout the season.

After frost trim off the tops close to the ground. Burn them. Don't use them as a mulch or put them in the compost pile, because if there should be any disease present, this would cause it to spread.

With a trowel or hoe, work in a couple of hands full of bone meal around each plant. It will be there in the spring, ready to help give the plant a good start.

There are other good commercial fertilizers which you may use if you

follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully.

Don't use manure. Manure doesn't agree with peonies and will surely retard their growth.

Mulching peonies isn't usually necessary except for newly planted stock. If you do mulch, wait until the ground is thoroughly frozen.

Don't plant peonies where they will stand in water during the winter. If you do you'll probably be an excellent prospect for more stock next fall.



**T**HERE are more than 2,000 recognized varieties of peonies. At Auglaize Gardens we grow and offer for sale only between 250 and 300 kinds.

We have plenty of ground, plenty of help, but we don't expect to ever increase this number to any extent. Why? Because to go over 300 simply means adding inferior varieties that aren't worth the time of planting and cultivation. Why go to the time and expense of growing flowers which your visitors won't admire when with the same amount of effort you can have flowers which really grace your garden and home?

The American Peony Society has

rated peonies on a basis of 10 being perfection. None has ever been given a rating of 10; Le Cygne is highest with 9.9.

A rating of 9 or above means a truly outstanding peony; 8 or 8.5 denotes high quality. There are some rather fine varieties slightly under 8. But in our opinion, there is scarcely a peony rated lower than 7.5 which we would deem worth growing.

Most Auglaize Gardens varieties have a rating of 8.5 or better. Only two or three out of our entire stock are below 8.

Rating, of course, doesn't always denote price. We are selling Le Cygne now at only \$2.50. In our summer issue of *Along the Garden Path*, which included our catalog, are listed a few varieties with ratings of 9 or above, at 75c. There are quite a few above 9 in the \$1 division.

Let us make this suggestion. If you have decided upon a definite sum to spend for peonies this fall, buy quality rather than quantity. Your expenditure will give you far greater satisfaction.

There is one other thing to take into consideration in choosing your flowers. Include some of the newer



varieties along with the old stand-bys. Be modern.

While it is not an exact comparison, buying peonies is something like buying clothes or automobiles.

When you go into a store this fall to buy a coat, you wouldn't take one first introduced in 1910 no matter how good the quality. If the family rates a new car, you'll certainly pay some attention to stream lined bodies and multiple-cylindereed motors rather than an automobile of the Model T era.

Please understand we don't mean to say that peony styles fluctuate from year to year as do coats and cars. But when a new peony is recognized by the American Peony Society and given a high rating, it does mean that it's an exceptional flower, different from anything else grown.

Any one of us who isn't interested in and thrilled by new things is hopelessly out of date and only waiting for the grim reaper.

So we advise again: include some of the new peonies. Be modern. Have something different to show your garden visitors.

New and rare varieties will be found in Group 2, Section 1 of our catalog. Write if you don't have a copy.

THE PEONY is one of the outstanding old fashioned garden favorites. Alongside peonies in many of the beautiful gardens of grandmother's day was found another old favorite, Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra Spectabilis*).

We have a liking for this flower. Judging from the attention drawn by the Bleeding Hearts in our garden last summer, we know it is dear to the hearts of many others, too.

This fall we can offer a few plants for sale. Each one sold will be a large plant, strong and vigorous, with plenty of eyes, and will bloom next year. \$1.25 each.

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All the way from New York comes a letter asking why we don't tell something about the cover illustrations of *Along the Garden Path*.

Beg your pardon.

The first issue showed a picture of our main office building. The second was a view of one of the Auglaize peony fields at blooming time.

The cover on the mid-summer issue showed a bit of an artificial stream which we built through the garden.

The cover on this issue shows the wing of the office building in which the display room is located.

HERE'S an opportunity to buy a choice collection of peonies at one-twelfth of their former cost.

In the *American Peony Society Manual*, the late James Boyd, former president of the Society, wrote:

"If I were asked to name the 12 best herbaceous peonies offered in America today, I believe the list would be as follows:

"Alice Harding

Kelway's Glorious

Le Cygne

Mme. Jules Dessert

Mrs. Edward Harding

Mrs. A. M. Brand

"Philippe Rivoire

President Wilson

Solange

Therese

Tourangelle

Walter Faxon"

Since Mr. Boyd compiled this list, there have been a few other exceptionally fine peonies introduced, but he probably would make little change in the list if he were alive now.

The other day we took the catalogs of three reputable growers for 1928, the year Mr. Boyd issued this list. The average price for this collection of 12

fine flowers, only six years ago, was \$311.

Alice Harding, very scarce then, was priced at \$150. Mrs. A. M. Brand was \$50 and President Wilson \$35. The others were from \$3.50 to \$18.

To show you how we have reduced prices since that time, our 1934 catalog lists these flowers at from \$1 to \$10 each, \$31 for all.

As an autumn feature and to encourage the planting of quality peonies we offer this entire James Boyd collection at \$25. For your own garden or as a gift for some dear friend, we know of nothing which would be more appreciated.

Of the 12 flowers 10 are excellent garden specimens. Neither Solange or Tourangelle look so well in the garden but are unexcelled exhibition flowers.

In placing your order, just specify the James Boyd Collection.

The plants will come to you carefully packed and labeled and with complete planting instructions.

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Auglaize roots come from plants grown in the finest soil. The plants are carefully tended throughout the year and are irrigated during the dry season.

SEVERAL years ago we imported some of the finest new varieties of peonies grown by Dorait & Sons of Lapalisse, France. Under federal importation rules these plants have been under quarantine until a reasonable amount of stock had been produced in our garden and until the plants had been given federal inspection to guarantee they were free from disease.

This inspection was made just recently and the restriction lifted last week. Now for the first time we can offer these new French varieties for sale.

Our stock is limited.

Following is a list of the available varieties. The descriptions are the grower's, not ours:

Margaret Elliot Waggaman (Dorait). Large double white with salmon tints. Tall stiff stems. Late.

Charlotte Core (Dorait). Single white. An exceptionally splendid early variety.

Ingenieur Dorait (Dorait). Large double flower, carmine red with crimson reflex and broad silvery border. Strong stems. A fine garden variety.

Gilbert Barthelot (Dorait). Double, silvery pink. Irregular flower, stiff stems.

Rigolote (Dorait)—Japanese. Purple crimson petals; stamenoids of same color tipped yellow. Very distinctive.

Professeur C. Potrat (Dorait). Double. Large cherry pink flower with silver reflex. Late with tall strong stems.



## AUGLAIZE GARDENS - VAN WERT, OHIO

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Edouard Dorait (Dessert-Dorait). Double. Vivid salmon pink. Exquisite coloring. Late.

Amance Dessert (Dessert-Dorait). Double. Soft silvery salmon pink. Perfectly shaped flowers. Strong fragrance. Splendid habit. A remarkable variety.

Jacques Dessert (Dessert-Dorait). Double. Huge very full flowers on tall stiff stems. Dark pink at base of petals, lighter toward the tip. Late and fragrant. Claimed to be of very large size.

Hubert Degris (Dessert-Dorait)—Jap. Lilac with silvery tints. Yellow petaloids. Rigid stems. (Certificate of Merit—Paris).

Price \$25 net per division. The divisions offered are strong and healthy but are not as large as our regular stock and we do not guarantee the usual five eyes on which size division our other prices are based.

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Is your garden space limited? Are you tired of seeing the same peonies and poppies bloom there year after year but haven't room for more? That's easy. Take out a few of the old ones and replace them with newer varieties.

For fall gardening—or gardening at any season for that matter—we recommend Ezy-Wear garden gloves. Made of treated goat skin, they're as soft as any kid glove you ever wore,

can be washed and afford much better protection than canvas gloves. They will outwear several pairs of canvas gloves. The price is 75c per pair post-paid. State your size.

This is one of the many items for gardeners carried in our Gate House store.

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BEFORE freezing weather, be sure your trees and plants are properly labeled.

Needing thousands of labels in our own garden, we have experimented with practically every kind made. There are two kinds we can especially recommend:

1. The Chapman label. Made of copper to contain a card covered by a sheet of mica. Easy to change the card if you wish to transfer the label to another plant.

2. The Perfect label. Write on this label with an ordinary lead pencil and it is permanently legible, yet can be erased when you wish. Attractive and practical shape. Beautiful gray green color, blends with the garden.

Both makes come in several sizes Pot and tree types. Prices on application.





